

Message Text

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FOLLOWING ROME 12422 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUL 29, 1977
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, UN, OCON

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CANDIDATES FOR 1978-1980 SEAT IN THE
COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID

1. EARLY CAMPAIGNING BY AUSTRALIA FOR RE-ELECTION AND BY
SRI LANKA FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES
AND PROGRAMS (CFA), FOR THE THREE YEAR TERM (1978-1980) CALLS
ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE ELECTIONS OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES
TO BE CHOSEN BY THE FAO COUNCIL IN ITS MEETING ON DECEMBER 2
WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BECUASE THEY INVOLVE KEY MEMBERS
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OF THE CFA, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.

2. SRI LANKA HAS CIRCULARIZED THE FAO COUNCIL MEMBER COUNTRY
RPERESENTATIVES HERE AND IN GENEVA, POINTING OUT THAT IT
CEASED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FAO COUNCIL AT THE END OF 1976,
AND WILL END ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AT THE
END OF 1977. IT IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION

OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)
AND WILL BE AN ALTERNATE IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF IFAD
THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ASIA GROUP. SRI LANKA
WAS PREVIOUSLY A MEMBER OF CFA'S PREDECESSOR, THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM,
UNTIL 1961, AT WHICH TIME IT STEPPED DOWN IN RESPECT
FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION WITHIN COUNTRIES OF A
REGION. IT WOULD LIKE TO RETURN NOW TO MEMBERSHIP
IN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM GOVERNING BODY BECAUSE IT
IS AN IMPORTANT RECIPIENT OF FOOD AID.

3. THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT ALL FIVE COUNTRIES CHOSEN BY
THE FAO COUNCIL WHOSE TERMS IN THE CFA END AT THE END
OF THIS YEAR ARE KEY COUNTRIES: AUSTRALIA, CANADA,
INDIA, SAUDI ARABIA, AND THE UNITED STATES. AUSTRALIA
HAS ALREADY STARTED CAMPAIGNING FOR RE-ELECTION, AND
WE PRESUME ALMOST ALL THE OTHERS WILL AS WELL. INDIA,
A MAJOR SOUTH ASIAN RECIPENT OF FOOD AID, IS PARTICU-
LARLY THREATENED BY THE SRI LANKA CANDIDACY (PAKISTAN
IS AN ECOSOC ELECTED MEMBER WITH TERM EXPIRING IN 1978:
BANGLADESH IS NOT A MEMBER). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE
WEIGHT OF VOTES MIGHT KNOCK OUT AUSTRALIA, WHICH HAS
PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

4. THE MEMBERS ELECTED BY ECOSOC, ON MAY 11, 1977,
FOR THE 1978-80 TERMS WERE: GREECE, HUNGARY, NORWAY
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AND TUNISIA. THE ASIAN SEAT HAS NOT YET BEEN SELECTED
BY ECOSOC, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION. IN THIS
ELECTION, ONLY HUNGARY WAS RE-LECTED. THE TERMS OF
MAURITANIA, THE PHILIPPINES, SWEDEN AND TURKEY WILL
END DECEMBER 31, 1977. GARDNER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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